

The Weapons of the Civil War

Artillery



6-pounder smoothbore

This popular workhorse of the Mexican War era was regarded as superseded by the Union artillery, but was still heavily employed by a Confederate army that could not afford to pass up any opportunities.

10-pounder Parrott

The family of Parrott rifles is easily recognizable by the reinforcing band of wrought iron, in the case of the 10-pounder about 13 inches wide, covering the breech and reinforce.



Mountain Howitzer

The 12 pounder Mountain Howitzer was a large caliber gun designed on a small scale. Its short barrel and small carriage made it possible to be disassembled and carried by pack animals, usually horses or mules. The carriage was placed on the second, or carriage mule. Followed by ammunition mules, carrying two ammunition chest each.

3-inch ordnance rifle

The design of this rifle, soon a favorite with artillerists in both armies, is recognized by the complete absence of any discontinuities in the surface of the gun.



Projectiles

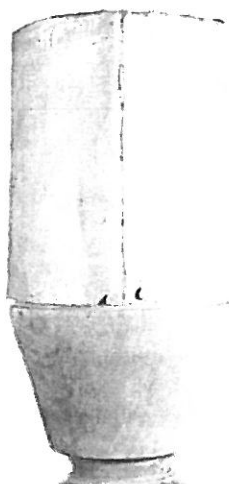
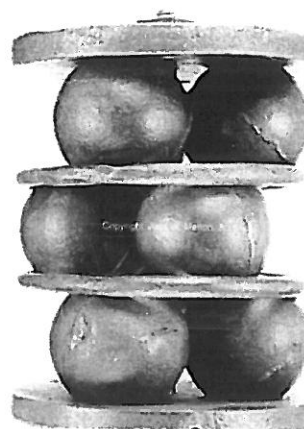


10-pound Parrott Canister

This non-excavated example is the most common style canister used by Federal artillery for the 10-pounder Parrott (2.9-inch caliber) rifled cannon. Standard canister are found with iron or lead balls stacked in tiers; the interstices are then filled with dry, sifted sawdust which is packed with a pointed stick so that the balls will hold by themselves.

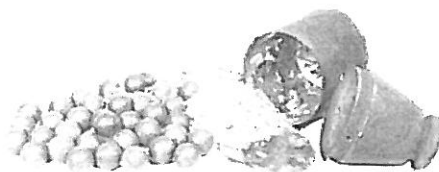
Strand of Grape

This non-excavated specimen is referred to as a stand of grape. The Federal forces discontinued the 12-pounder stand of grape prior to 1861 and replaced it with canister. The shot used in canisters were large enough to be effective, and the canister balls possessed the advantage of striking a great many more points on impact than grape. When fired, the center bolt would break free, sending nine iron grape shot, two rings, and two plates flying at their intended target.



Canister

This non-excavated canister was designed for use in the 12-pounder smoothbore howitzer. The canister's wooden cylinder was tapered to fit the howitzer's tapered powder chamber. It contains rows of iron balls packed in sawdust. The illustrated disassembled view is of this actual canister. The single wide groove in the wooden base was for the attachment of the cartridge bag.



Projectiles continued

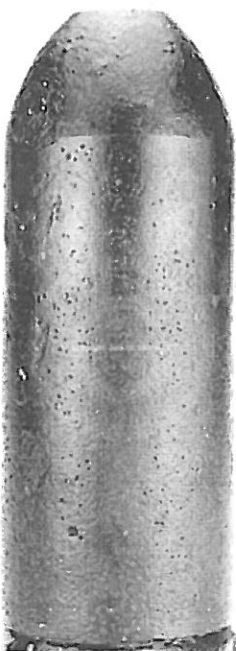
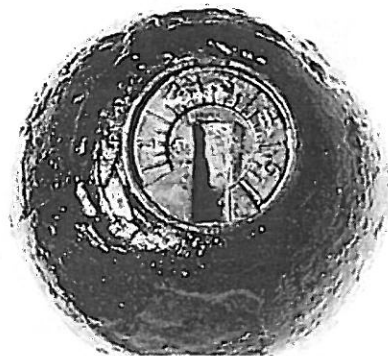


12 –pound solid shot

This example is non-excavated and rests on its original wooden sabot. This is the most common solid shot projectile of any caliber used during the Civil War by both the Federal and Confederate forces. The ball is secured to the sabot by two crossed iron straps nailed to the wooden cup. The cartridge bag or powder bag was tied to the groove cut into the base of the sabot. After attachment of the powder charge, the round was referred to as fixed ammunition.

6 –pounder Bormann Fused Shell

This is a Confederate copy of the Federal manufactured Bormann fuze and projectile. The Federal artillery used this pattern until the 6-pounder smoothbore cannon was removed from the field in 1864. One indicator of Confederate manufacture is that the first line on the fuze is the full width of the powder train. The Federal Bormann fuze has a first line that is half of the width of the powder train.



20–pounder Parrott

This is an example of the long-pattern 20-pounder Parrott projectile. The long-pattern Parrott projectiles are common shell and do not contain any case-shot material. A large number of this style projectile were fired during the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. This pattern is also found with a brass ring sabot, therefore, would be considered a Read-Parrott projectile pattern.

Small Arms



1861 percussion rifle-musket

This Model 1861 was the standard rifle-musket used throughout the war. It was originally made by the Springfield Armory, but due to the need for more firearms, the U.S. government contracted with twenty private contractors. It is estimated that about one million Model 1861-type muskets were manufactured during the war.



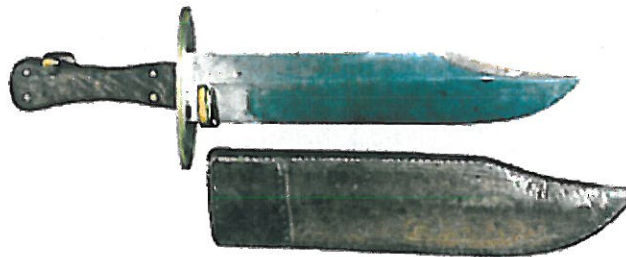
Cook carbine

This .58 caliber carbine was manufactured by the firm of Cook and Brother of Athens, Georgia, and is dated 1864. The Cook firm produced exceptionally well-made weapons patterned after English Enfield types.



McClellan's pistol

This first model Colt Dragon revolver was carried by General George B. McClellan during the Civil War. Colt made approximately 7,000 of these .44 caliber, six-shot repeaters between 1848 and 1850.



Confederate bowie knife

This bowie knife was found on the battlefield of Perryville, Kentucky. It is brass mounted and has wooden grips and a blade 12 7/8 inches long. The bowie is usually classified as any large knife with a chipped point.